

SHOCHIKU:

KABUKI PLAY

" The Story of the Faithful Retainers "

(Kana - Tehon - Chushingura)

Fourth Act.

----- Scene of Enya's Mansion, Ogigayatsu -----

(Ogigayatsu - Yakata - No - Ba)

C.C.D. J-2939



To be presented by all the Kabuki

Actors at the Tokyo Theater from

Nov. to Nov. , '47 :-

probably
that act

Dramatis Personae:

Lady Kaoyo

Four Waiting-Maids

Yagoro Senzaki

Kudayu Ono -

Warriors

Takasada Hangan En'ya

Umenojo Ishido

Jirozaemon Yakushiiji

Yuranosuke Oboshi

Rikiya Oboshi

Goemon Hara

Kitahachi Takemori

Jutaro Yama

Bungo Owashi

Denji Uramatsu

Hannojo Sugano

Genta Katayama

Matanojo Koshioda

Magoshichi Okuyama

Chutaro Kawase.

The stage represents En'ya's residence at Ogigayatsu. With the tick of a clock, the curtain rises.

"Owing to Hangan En'ya's domiciliary confinement, all the doors of his mansion at Ogigayatsu are closed and he is prohibited from going out of his house under strict surveillance."

(Just then a voice is heard in the drop-curtain over there.)

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Voice: Here come the messengers of the Shogun!
"Knowing the early coming of the messenger of the Shogun, people in the vestibule and hall feel uneasy."
(Just then the screen on the right is thrown open and Kudayu Cno and Goemon Hara meet the messengers.)
"Both of them meet the messengers..
The messengers of the Shogun are Umenojo Ishido and Moronao's right-hand man Jirozaemon Yakushiiji."
(Over there Kumenojo Ishido with thick Japanese paper for ceremonial use in his breast-pocket comes out. Following

him, Jirozaemon Yakushiji comes out to the stage-passage and seems to be lost in thought.)

Yakushiji: 'Let me pass due to my office.

"Without making a bow, he takes a seat in the place of honor. Just at the moment Hangan En'ya comes composedly out of the inner room."

(Thereupon Kodayu and Goemon fall prostrate on the left. Just then the screen in front is thrown open when Hangan En'ya wearing a Japanese coat comes out and sits in the middle.)

Hangan: Hallo, Ishido-dono, thank you for having come here as a messenger of the Shogun. First of all, I'll let them make ready for rice-wine and distract myself from my resentment by exchanging cups with you.

Yaku: Oh, it's a swell idea. I, Yakushiji, will also drink with you. However, when you are told of the mandate of the lord by us, you won't feel like drinking, I should think.

"He scoffs at Hangan when Umenojo opens his mouth."

Ishido: Now you shall know what we've come here as messengers of the Shogun to-day for. "He takes the paper out of his pocket and opens it when Hangan sits upright and listens to him read it."

(Thereupon Hangan falls prostrate on the left. Ishido p opens the paper.)

This time Takasada Hangan hurt Steward Moronao Kono out of his personal hatred and threw the palace into confusion.

Because of his crime he shall forfeit his land and commit harakiri (disembowel himself.)

"Hearing the order, Hangan's lady and his followers present get astonished and exchange glances with one another in blank amazement. However, Hangan seems composed."

Han: Now I quite understand the mandate of the lord. Well, I want you to make yourselves quite at home and have drink for diversion.

Yaku: Tut, tut, Hangan! Hold your tongue!
Because of the crime you ought to be hanged,
but thanks to the lord's benevolence
you're ordered to perform "harakiri",
so you should get yourself ready for it
at once. Especially you ought to wear
a robe suitable for committing "harakiri."
On the contrary, you are wearing a
fashionable long Japanese coat.
Are you intoxicated or have you lost
your senses?
Your attitude toward Ishido-dono and me
--- Yakushiji ---, messengers of the
Shogun, is very rude.

"He reproves Hangan, who smiles."

Han: I, Hangan, am not intoxicated nor have
I lost my senses.

To-day I've expected the coming of the
messengers of the Shogun and resigned
myself to the fate. I'll let you see
my firm determination.

"He throws off his swords and Japanese
coat when his grave-clothes with white
sleeves and no family crest are seen."

All of them get astonished to see the clothes. Yakushiji feels bashful and gets nonplussed.

Umenojo draws close to Hangan."

Ume: I understand your mind. I shall act as coroner. Be prepared for death calmly, please.

Han: Thank you for your kindness. Since I shed blood there I've been ready for it. I regret to say that I was held back by Monzo Kakigawa and failed in killing Moronao.

I shan't be able to forget my mortification.

As Masashige Kusunoki said at his last moment in the battle of the River Minato that he would revive, so I would revive and wreak my wrath on him,"

"So saying in an angry voice, he strikes the screen of the next room."

(Just then from behind the screen on the left is heard a warrior's voice.)

Warrior: We, all of his retainers, would like to see our master before he passes away.

May we go and see him, Goemon-dono?

All: Please tell him of our wish.

"All the members of the house voice their wish."

(Goemon speaks to Hangan.)

Goe: What do you say?

Han: Hm, no wonder they want to do so, but let them wait till Yuranosuke comes here.

"Goemon turns to the room right away."

Goe: You heard him. Nobody can see him now.

Warrior: Well, then, can't we see him?

All: Can't we?

Goe: No.

"The warriors keep silent in the room."

Be ready.

(With music, Page Takeuchi comes out of the left with a mat covered with white cloth on all sides, puts it down and leaves. Hangan sits on it calmly.)

"According to the order, Rikiya places a sword for performing 'harakiri' before his master."

(From the right comes out Rikiya with a sword on a wooden stand; he shows it to the coroner and places it before Hangan,

who makes a sign to him so as to let him leave. Rikiya hesitates to leave, but resolutely rises to his feet and draws back to the left.)

"Hangan composedly takes off his clothes."

Han: Will you kindly make an autopsy over me?

"He pulls up the wooden-stand and takes up the sword."

Rikiya, Rikiya.

Rikiya: Yes.

Han: How about Yuranosuke?

(Thereupon Rikiya goes to the edge of the stage-passage and looks over there.)

Riki: He hasn't come ---. (Comes back to the former place.) Yet.

Han: I'm sorry I shan't be able to see him before I join the majority.
I can't help it.

"He grasps the sword in his left hand with the point downward and thrusts his abdomen with it. His lady dare not see him, but offers prayers with tears in her eyes. Opening the

screen on the corridor, Yuranosuke Oboshi rushes in and as soon as he sees his master's condition, he falls prostrate. Just then Hangan starts performing 'harakiri'."

(Over there Yuranosuke comes running and falls prostrate on the stage-passage.)

Yaku: Are you his chief retainer Yuranosuke in charge of his castle?

Yuranosuke: Yes, I am.

Ishi: Never mind. Come nearer.

Yura: Thank you very much. (Yuranosuke seems to be in thought, puts his swords on the stage-passage and comes near Hangan.)

"Following him, Senzaki, Yama, and the other followers of Hangan rush into the room one after another. Just then from the left come out numbers of Hangan's followers and fall prostrate."

I, Yoshikane Yuranosuke Oboshi, have only just come.

Han: Yuranosuke, I've long been waiting for you.

Yura: Oh, I'm glad I've seen you before you go

to your long home.

Han: Oh, I'm also satisfied to see you.
I'm sure you've heard of the matter in detail.

Yura: Yes.

Han: How vexatious I am!

Yu: I understand how you feel. Now I've nothing particular to tell you, but I hope you'll die manfully.

Han: Oh, I know.
"Hangan disembowels himself and breathes with difficulty."

Yuranosuke, I'll give this sword to you so that you can wreak my wrath in my place on him with it.

(Yuranosuke interrupts him.)

Yu: Please wait a moment. (Checks him.)
"Hangan cuts off his blood-vessel with the blade, throws out the blood-stained sword, falls forward on his face and breathes his last. All his followers as well as his lady close their eyes, hold their breath and clench their teeth."

(All of them express their sorrow over his death.

Meanwhile, Rikiya takes up the swords on the stage-passage and puts them aside.)

"Yuranosuke draws close to Hangan's body, takes up the sword respectfully, looks closely at the blood-stained sword, clenches his fists and sheds tears of resentment, recalling Hangan's last words. Out of this motive Oboshi will be recorded in history as a model faithful retainer."

(Yuranosuke looks closely at the sword and expresses his mortification and then puts it into his pocket.)

"Yakushiji suddenly rises to his feet."

Yaku: Now that Hangan, has kicked the bucket, surrender this mansion to us right away.

Ishi: Don't say such a thing, Yakushiji.

We must take it into consideration that he was a feudal lord.

Well, everybody, I hope you will hold funeral services for him and leave here peacefully. ~~*****~~

I am in charge of examining his body and now that I've seen him commit "harakiri", I'll tell this matter to the lord. Yuramosuke-dono, I must condole with you on his death.

I'll listen to you if you have anything to tell me. Don't stand on ceremony.

"He bows to the warriors in silence and leaves."

(Ishido goes over there thoughtfully.)

Yaku:

I, Yakushiiji, will take a rest in the inner room while the dead body will be disposed of.

Hey, Followers, throw out odds and ends before the gate. Don't let the new detached warriors filch Hangan's belongings.

"He stares round the mansion and enters a room."

(Yakushiiji thunders and goes to the right.)

"The lady bursts into tears, cuts off her beautiful, black hair and makes her appearance tearfully."

(After a while Lady Kaoya clad in white and with her hair cut short

comes out, accompanied by waiting-maids and looks at her husband's dead body.)

Kaoyo: Nobody is so pitiable as a warrior's wife. Although I had had a lot of things to tell my husband before he breathed his last, I was afraid that the messengers of the Shogun would hold me in contempt if I should do so. That's why I've put up with my grief over my husband's death up to now. "She clings to his dead body and bursts out crying."

Yura: Come over here, Rikiya.
(Thereupon Rikiya comes beside Yuranosuke.)
Bring our dead master's body to his family temple "The Komyoji Temple" right now together with the lady. I, Yuranosuke, will overtake you later on and carry out the funeral ~~services for him~~ services for him. Senzaki, Owashi, Takemori, Uramatsu, Sugano and Koshioda, you should remain here. All the others ought to act as escort on their way there.

"In less than no time there arrives a hearse. Opening the door of the hearse, all of them get near it and put the dead body in it tearfully."

(Just at the moment from the left there comes a hearse. Several warriors put it ~~o~~ in the middle. All of ~~any~~ them place Hangan's dead into it.

Kao: Yuranosuke, come nearer to me.

Yura: Very well. (Advances forward.)

Kao: Just look at this, please.

(Kaoyo takes out her cut hair when Yuranosuke receives it with his fan and puts it in the hearse.

Kaoyo tries to draw near the hearse again, so he detains her and shuts the door.)

"They lift up the ~~hat~~ hearse gradually when the lady weeps bitterly. Consoling her, the warriors guard the hearse and hasten to the family temple."

After a while the hearse goes to the stage-passage. Kaoyo puts her

hand on a waiting-maid's shoulder.

Rikiya, Yama and the other warriors follow her.

A great many men guard the hearse and go away.

"Seeing off the hearse, all the others takes their seats. Just then Kudayu Ono voices his opinion."

(Senzaki, Takemori and the others --- six ~~4~~ in all --- take their seats.)

Kudayu: Well, Oboshi-dono, you've been his chief retainer since you succeeded your father Rokuro Hachiman-dono. As for me, I've ranked next to you, but from to-day on I shall also become a detached warrior and have no means to support my wife and children. We'd better divide the public fund which our master has saved among us and surrender this mansion to the officials. Otherwise we should be rude to Yakushiiji-dono.

Senzaki: Don't be silly! So far as I know, our enemy Moronao Kono -----.

Takemori: Is he alive? We would like to
wreak our wrath on him.

Owashi: What do you say to fighting against
the government troops sent against
us so as to keep this mansion in
our hands till we die fighting?

Ku: Here, here, it's a bad idea to die
fighting. As I told you just now,
it's the best way for us to take
that we shall hand this mansion
over to them and divide gold and
silver coins among us, isn't it?
"During the conference Yuranosuke
has kept silent, but suddenly
breaks silence."

Yura: I quite agree to Yagoro's opinion
at this conference. We should
immolate ourselves on the death
of our master, but now we have come
to a decision that we would rather
fight with Ashikaga's troops sent
against^{us}/and die fighting than commit
'harakkiri."

Ku: Oh, don't say such a silly thing.

I thought we would counsel together about the best way to take, but against my expectation you're trying ~~trying~~ to be a sport though you're a detached warriro.

How imprudent you are that you should rebel against Ashikaga-dono.

I, Kodayu, don't understand you. I want to be excluded from this consultation. It's no use staying here long. Well, everybody, you better stay here long.

"He leaves in a flurry."

(Kodayu goes away hurriedly. All the young warriors look stern.)

Senzaki: How greedy Kodayu Ono is!

Takemori: He is startled to hear that we should die fighting.

Owashii: He is so cowardly that he has run away.

Uramatsu: Never mind about that guy, Oboshi-dono.

Sugano: Please be ready for fighting with the troops sent against us.

Koshioda: Yuranosuke-dono!

All: Yuranosuke-dono!

(However, Yuranosuke keeps silent.)

Senzaki: By the way, what do you say, Goemon-dono?

All: What's your opinion?

Goe: I should like to leave this matter to the chief retainer for his wise judgment.

Take: Well, then, we should act according to the castellan's intention.

Owashi: Please tell us of your real intention.

All: Please do so.

(However, Yuranosuke is still in deep thought.)

Senzaki: Why don't you reply to our earnest question?

Take: You've been influenced by Kudayu-dono's cowardice and lost your nerve,---

Owashi: Haven't you?

Sen: Let's carry it out as previously arranged.

(Thereupon all the other warriors go to the stage-passage.)

Yura: Wait a moment, everybody! Where are you going with a threatening look?

Sen: Of course we'll consult with the
kindred spirits who are coming
back from the family temple.

Take: In order to avenge our master's
death -----.

Owashi: We shall engage Ashikaga's troops sent
against us -----.

Ura: Fight bravely with them -----.

Su: Die fighting in this mansion -----.

Koshi: And our beautiful names will be re-
corded in history.

All: That's our intention.

Yu: Don't say such a thing, everybody.
We've no grudge against Ashikaga-
done, so shouldn't rebel against him.
This is all the ruse that I've used to
sound Kodayu's mind.

All: Huh?

Yu: First of all, what we should do to-day
is to surrender this mansion to Yakushiji
formally and leave here respectively.
Afterwards I'll meet you again at
Yamashina in the City where I'll
confess my mind to you and hold a
conference about the matter.

"Before he speaks of his intention
Jirozaemon comes out of the room."

(Just then from the right comes
Jirozaemon.)

Yaku: Oh, you've had a long conference. Now
that you've disposed of the dead body,
surrender this mansion to me right off.
"He thunders at them when Goemon speaks
to him."

Goe: Oh, I'm sorry we've kept you waiting so
long. We'll hand all the belongings
of our dead master as well as his
weapons and harness over to you,
so please give us a little more time.

Yaku: Be quick!
(Jirozaemon roughly goes to the right.)

Goe: Now, Yuranosuke-dono, you must leave
here.

Yura: Alright.
"He rises to his feet composedly."

Since the days of our ancestors -----.

All: Since the days of our forefathers ---

Yura: Day in day out we've wordked assiduously ---.

All: In this mansion, though.

"They cast a backward glance at the mansion over and over again wistfully and go outside of the gate."

(Thereupon Yuranosuke and the others look back at the mansion repeatedly and go to the right tearfully. Just then with the sound of the drum announcing the time, the stage-settings revolve.)

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The main stage represents the front gate of the mansion. With the sound of the drum announcing the time, the stage-settings are placed properly.

"Having taken the dead body to the temple, Rikiya, Yama, Hori and Koderu come back hurriedly one after another."

(Over there with Rikiya in the lead, numbers of the warriors come back hurriedly.)

Rikiya: Oh, he must have already handed the mansion over to the messenger.

Jutaro: Now we shall have to engage Naoyoshi's troops sent against us -----

All: Let's die fighting.

(In a twinkling they come to the stage when Goemon and the eight warriors with Yuranosuke in the rear check them pointing to the family crest of the master.)

"They get impetuous when Yuranosuke checks them."

Yu: Why are you making such a great ado? Now isn't time for you to die. Just look at this, everybody.

"Yuranosuke draws the dead master's keepsake."

On the point of this sword there remains our master's blood in his resentment. Let's behead Moronao with this sword and fulfill our wish.

Juta: Oh, indeed!

All: Bravo!

"The warriors take heart. In the mansion Jirozaemon gets his followers to bolt the gate tightly."

Yaku: It serves him right, as he hurt Lord Moronao. Numbers of His Followers:
Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha!

"His followers clap their hands and burst out laughing."

All: Listen to thier laughter.

"The young warriors are about to draw back when Yuranosuke checks them."

Yu: I've no intention to avenge our former master's death.

All: But -----.

Yu: Have you forgotten his last words?
(Shows the sword in his hand to them and says so sharply.)

"He glares at them, so they go out of the castle."

(Thereupon all of them go away dejectedly.

Yuranosuke sees them off and is lost in thought.)

"He looks back at the mansion repeatedly with mortification and leaves wistfully."

(Just then Yuranosuke puts the sword in his pocket and goes to the stage-passage calmly, but he unconsciously sits there dejectedly and sheds tears.)

----- Curtain -----

When the curtain is about to fall, Yuranosuke stands up and goes away. The sound of the wooden clappers is heard.